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Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says it would be unrealistic to deploy observers to fully control Bosnia and Herzegovina's borders; says even limited monitoring operation would require substantial resources.

+ Special Envoy for Haiti announces concrete plan to solve country's political crisis to be presented to President Aristide and General Cedras; has support of France, United States, Venezuela and Canada.

+ Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in Geneva, announces High-Level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development and appoints 21 individuals to serve on it.

+ Co-Chairman of Yugoslavia Conference, in Geneva, says situation on ground is deteriorating; expresses concern about threats to United Nations humanitarian convoys and personnel.

+ Special Representative for Somalia says UNOSOM II is committed to promoting country's independence; disarmament will proceed decisively and firmly.

+ UNCITRAL aims to complete model law on procurement at twenty-sixth session in Vienna from 5 to 23 July.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that it would be unrealistic for the Security Council to authorize international observers to establish full control over the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina as world-wide resources for additional peace-keeping troops were becoming increasingly stretched. He made that comment in a report, dated 1 July, on options for the possible deployment of observers, which had been requested by the Council in resolution 838 (1993).

Full border control would require a capability to deny passage and to act where borders had already been crossed, the Secretary-General said. It would also mean that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) would supersede

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the national authorities in respect of certain border-control functions. The report identified border monitoring as another option. Observers would only observe and report on Bosnia and Herzegovina's borders, and would not be in a position to check the nature of goods coming into and out of the Republic. Even the more limited option would require substantial additional resources, and the necessary personnel and financing might not be available, he said.

The Secretary-General went on to point out that outstanding contributions to United Nations peace-keeping accounts totaled $1,260 million in mid-June, while upaid assessments amounted to $2,236 million. He said it was "highly probable that in the coming months the Organization will not be able to meet its day-to-day obligations".

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Dante Caputo, the Special Envoy for Haiti of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), today said a concrete plan to solve the country's political crisis would be presented at separate meetings with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and to General Raoul Cedras, Commander-in-Chief of the Haitian Armed Forces. He said the plan had been presented earlier today to France, the United States, Venezuela and Canada and had received their support.

The Special Envoy has been conducting talks with the Haitian parties in New York since Sunday. The talks are aimed at bringing about the return of President Aristide and the restoration of constitutional government to Haiti.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in Geneva, today announced the establishment of a High-Level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development and appointed 21 individuals to serve on it. Last year's United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) had recommended the creation of such a board, to consist of eminent persons knowledgeable about environment and development, and the General Assembly had subsequently endorsed the Secretary-General's proposals regarding its nature, functions and composition.

The Board will serve as a high-level source of advice for the Secretary-General in formulating policy proposals, elaborating innovative approaches and courses for action and identifying emerging issues. Those issues will be brought to the attention of relevant intergovernmental bodies, particularly the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).

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Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, today expressed deep concern about the growing level of threats to United Nations humanitarian convoys and personnel in the former Yugoslavia and said the situation on the ground was deteriorating, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Stoltenberg and Co-Chairman Lord Owen attended a meeting of the Conference's Steering Committee in Geneva today.

Lord Owen briefed the meeting on recent Serb-Croat proposals which were being considered by the Bosnian Presidency, and which had not been endorsed by the Co-Chairmen, the spokesman said. Lord Owen pointed out that key provisions of the Vance-Owen plan were still part of the proposals or were on the table with them, including provisions dealing with human rights and the reversal of "ethnic cleansing". The Co-Chairmen were not talking about partition; they were talking about one nation with three constituent republics within accepted international borders.

Meanwhile, the humanitarian situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been worsening "at an alarming rate", and the amount of food reaching the area has fallen by some 50 per cent, according to the spokesman. Aid convoys were being blocked or delayed, with Bosnian Serbs demanding exorbitant tolls, payable on the spot, for every vehicle.

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The United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) is committed to helping the country to regain its independence and to achieve its rebirth as a nation, the Secretary-General's Special Representative Jonathan Howe said today. In a message to the people of Somalia, he stressed that UNOSOM II expected the country to be self-governing within the two-year framework agreed to in Addis Ababa.

Somalia was "awash" with heavy weapons, and they posed the greatest threat to its future, the Special Representative continued. UNOSOM II was determined to disarm the entire country decisively and firmly. In that process, it did not support or oppose any particular clan. Coercive disarmament operations were directed against those, like General Mohamed Farah Aidid, who used violence to gain political power.

Disarmament and political reconciliation would bring peace to Somalia, he underlined. UNOSOM II was working with various United Nations agencies, international organizations and non-governmental organizations on humanitarian and development problems. With the World Bank and donor nations, it was putting together a dynamic development programme for Somalia for 1994-1996.

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The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) will aim to complete a model law on procurement at its twenty-sixth session, to be held in Vienna from 5 to 23 July. The text would serve as a model for national legislation on procedures to be followed by government agencies in their procurement practices.

The Commission will have before it a draft prepared by the Working Group on the New International Economic Order. A number of States, including States whose economies are in transition, have already shown interest in using the text as a mode.

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